

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested prior to examination on the merits.

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to include a cross-reference to parent U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/531,341, filed March 20, 2000.

Claims 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 have been amended, claims 4 and 7 have been canceled and claim 10 has been added. Claims 4 and 7 are being prosecuted in the parent application. Claims 8-10 are drafted so as to depend directly or indirectly from the sole independent claim 3 in this case. Minor editorial amendments, like those made in the parent case, also are made to claims 3 and 6. The scope of original claim 3, as traced back through the parent, is not narrowed by this Amendment. Claim 5 has been amended, and claim 10 has been added, such that reference back to claims 1 and 2 is no longer necessary. That is, the subject matter of claims 1 and 2 is recited expressly in amended claim 5 (incorporating the VCO characteristics from claim 1) and new claim 10 (incorporating the VCO characteristics as given in both claims 1 and 2 combined).

Examination on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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